

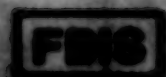
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3 July 1980

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 191



FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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3 July 1980

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AUSTRALIA

BRIEFS

MALARIA IN MELBOURNE--Fairfield Hospital has reported an alarming increase in the incidence of malaria cases in Melbourne. The Chief Executive Officer of Fairfield Hospital, Dr N. McK. Bennett, told the hospital's Board of Management yesterday that 17 cases had been admitted in the past four weeks. This was the largest number of patients with the disease ever admitted in a four-week period. Fifteen were suffering vivax malaria. Two had falciparum malaria which they had acquired in Bougainville, New Guinea. Dr Bennett said three of the patients with vivax malaria were Vietnamese refugees, but all the others were itinerant Australians. Six had returned from New Guinea, two from Indonesia, two from South-East Asia, one from the New Hebrides and one from the Solomon Islands. Dr Bennett said not all malaria cases were admitted to hospital. There were many more sufferers who were treated by their own doctors. [Excerpt] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 15 May 80 p 3]

RUBELLA WARNING--The Queensland Special Education Association yesterday warned of a rubella epidemic, following high incidences of the disease in Canberra and Wagga. Association president, Ms L. Giorcelli, advised all women of child-bearing age to check their immunity against rubella with their doctors. [Excerpt] [Brisbane THE COURIER-MAIL in English 14 May 80 p 24]

LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE IN PERTH--A 56-year-old Cannington man is in the intensive-care ward in Royal Perth Hospital with legionnaires' disease. He was admitted to the hospital with pneumonia on April 17 and was transferred to the intensive-care ward two days later. A diagnosis of legionnaires' disease was confirmed by the State Health Laboratories on Thursday. [Excerpt] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 10 May 80 p 3]

KIDNEY INFECTION IN NSW--Sydney: An outbreak of a highly contagious disease that can lead to kidney failure has hit the New South Wales town of Barraba. Three children have already contracted the disease and one boy with kidney failure has been flown to the Royal Alexandra Hospital for children in Sydney. The disease starts with an infection of the throat, called Betahemolytic streptococci. The infection can lead to acute nephritis (inflamed kidneys) within two to three weeks if it is not picked up in time or treated with antibiotics. About 300 children in the north-western town have had throat swabs taken so that doctors can estimate the extent of the epidemic. [Excerpts] [Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 5 May 80 p 41]

VACCINE TEST--Adelaide.--Adelaide children will be used for the first Australian testing of a vaccine against pneumonia, ear infections, and a form of meningitis. The Department of Community Medicine at the University of Adelaide has been awarded a \$24,000 grant by the Commonwealth Government for the first six months of a planned three-year study to determine whether the vaccine should be introduced as a routine childhood immunisation. [Text] [Melbourne THE AGE in English 5 May 80 p 3]

CSO: 5400

PREPARATIONS FOR POLIO IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY

Foci in Rio State

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 May 80 p 7

[Text] Dr Noemia "ligerman, adviser to the state secretary of health, says that poliomyelitis in 1979 paralyzed or killed approximately 200 children 4 years of age and under in Rio de Janeiro State. She added that these cases represent from 5 to 10 percent of the total number of persons stricken by the polio virus. Based on these figures, it is estimated that there were from 10,000 to 20,000 cases of infection by the virus in the state last year.

This information was supplied during a meeting held yesterday to lay the groundwork for a polio immunization campaign in the Fluminense Lowlands. The Rio de Janeiro State Secretary of Health hopes to immunize 80 percent of the 4 to 5 year old age group of the entire state during this campaign.

Indices of Polio in the Lowlands

Yesterday's meeting was for the purpose of integrating the work of the volunteers of the Fluminense Lowlands into the National Polio Immunization Campaign, scheduled for 14 June and 16 August. The group will include volunteers from the municipalities of Nova Iguaçu, Duque de Caxias, São João de Meriti, Nilópolis, Mage and Petrópolis.

Except for Rio de Janeiro (65 cases) and São Gonçalo (32 cases), the highest indices of this disease last year were recorded in Nova Iguaçu (27 cases), Caxias (13 cases) and São João de Meriti (14 cases).

During yesterday's meeting (held at the Duque de Caxias Refinery) Dr Geraldo Pessanha pointed out that Brazil has the second highest incidence of poliomyelitis in the world (after India). The only effective method of eradicating the disease, he said, is mass immunization, "for this is the way it has been accomplished in other countries with good results."

Poliomyelitis is an incurable disease for which the only treatment indicated is prevention. According to Dr Pessanha, statistics indicate that 99 percent of all children stricken by polio had never been vaccinated, and that 98 percent of these cases appear in children between 0 and 4 years of age.

The campaign launched by the Ministry of Health will be repeated annually until 1984 on the second Saturday in July and the third Saturday in August--which have already been designated as National Immunization Days. On these days all children up to 5 years of age must be vaccinated, including even those who have previously taken the vaccine.

The coordinators of the campaign explain that there is no contraindication for the Sabin vaccine. Even children who are ill with the flu, fever, earache or any other illness should be immunized on those days: this will make it more difficult for them to contract the disease and will also enable the government to establish better control.

Duque de Caxias, Nova Iguaçu, São João de Meriti, Magé, Nilópolis and Petrópolis have a combined early childhood population (0 to 5 years of age) of 341,920. On the days of the national immunization campaign a total of 1,061 stations will function throughout the six municipalities, mobilizing the services of approximately 3,024 persons. Each station will vaccinate 400 children. According to Noemia Klingerman [sic], adviser to the secretary of health, this will eliminate the possibility of long lines and disturbances.

Meetings

Organized by the state's first lady, Mrs Zoe de Chagas Freitas, the wives of the mayors are in charge of mobilizing the health aides in their respective municipalities and publicizing the national immunization campaign.

Although less successful than the one held in Niterói early this month, the meeting convened yesterday at the refinery by Noemia Barros, wife of the mayor of Duque de Caxias, brought together a group of representatives of the municipalities of the Fluminense Lowlands. Mrs Zoe de Chagas Freitas, who is leaving today for the United States, did not attend; she sent Gilda Barbosa, wife of the state secretary of health, as her representative. Americo Barros, mayor of Duque de Caxias, was present at the meeting to greet the participants.

Defrayal of Campaign Costs

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 May 80 p 7

[Text] Brasília--The Ministry of Health has not yet calculated the total funds that will be spent on the National Polio Eradication Campaign, scheduled to be held on 14 June and 16 August. "It will be difficult for

us to compute these figures," the minister said, "inasmuch as they also include collections made within the community."

The cost of the campaign will be borne by sponsors recruited among banking, commercial and industrial establishments, and by the Ministry of Health in the form of budgetary allocations to the state secretariats of health (up to a limit of 2.5 billion cruzeiros).

The purchase of the vaccines is being defrayed exclusively by the ministry, while the cost of publicizing the campaign is being funded by SECOM [Mass Media Secretariat]. A total of 50 million cruzeiros has been spent to date for Sabin vaccines from the Soviet Union, at a unit price of 1 cruzeiro.

In Rio

State Secretary of Health Silvio Barbosa da Cruz acknowledged that there has been a relaxation of efforts to purchase polio vaccine on the part of the health stations. "The purchases slacked off," he said, "in anticipation of the national polio immunization campaign, which will hold its first immunization day on 14 June and its second on 16 August."

Silvio da Cruz disclosed that approximately 3,500 vaccination stations have been installed in the state, and that the secretariat is accepting volunteers to administer the doses to children under 5 years of age. He insisted that all the normal stocks of vaccine are capable of satisfying "normal demand."

Low Rate of Immunization

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 May 80 p 21

[Text] Brasilia bureau--Joao Batista Rizzi Jr, national secretary for basic activities of the Ministry of Health, declared yesterday that even though almost 90 percent of the population of Sao Paulo State (which represents approximately 20 percent of the nation's total population) has been immunized against polio, the figures for the nation as a whole average out to only 25 percent.

The secretary noted that in the past 5 years a total of 70 million doses had been administered without achieving satisfactory results. He explained that this poor record of immunizations through the use of the Sabin vaccine accounts for the increase in the number of cases nationwide (mainly since November and December of last year)--an increase which has put Brazil in second place with respect to the number of cases of poliomyelitis reported annually (exceeded only by India, which records 8,000 cases of polio each year).

These statements were made during an internal seminar conducted by the Ministry of Health to inform the officials and technicians involved in the

antipolio campaign of the progress of the ministry's preparations for the mass immunization that will take place on 14 June. The Office of Social Communication reported on this occasion that the publicity for the campaign will be launched on 1 June. The secretary for basic activities discussed the various manifestations of the disease and emphasized that there is a cyclical variation in the incidence of poliomyelitis, with the number of cases increasing every 2 years.

10992

CSC: 5400

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN PARANA KILLS 98 THIS YEAR

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 20 May 80 p 18

[Text] Curitiba--The outbreak of measles in Parana State had produced a total of 5,380 cases as of last week, compared to the total of 4,666 the previous week, and has already resulted in 98 deaths so far this year. In disclosing this information the Secretariat of Health also confirmed the occurrence of seven cases of bovine rabies this year, compared to 12 during all of last year.

The outbreak of rabies has already spread to 24 dogs in Curitiba and 33 in the state. Dr Jose Francisco Komussaise, chief of the Epidemiologic Vigilance Service of the Secretariat of Health, said that the "Desmodian" rabies (in cattle) has not yet become a source of concern inasmuch as it has occurred only in mountainous regions where grottos and caves favor the proliferation of bats, which transmit it to the cattle.

Vaccination

Vaccination against rabies in Curitiba will not begin until 2 June, after the training of 52 persons (begun on 26 May) has been completed. A total of 40 soldiers from the 5th Military Region, and 12 employees of the secretariat, will be mobilized; they will be divided into four teams which will go from house to house in the capital, vaccinating 150,000 dogs and cats. Last year there were 63 cases of rabies in Parana, 37 of which were in dogs, 6 in cats, 12 in cattle and 8 in "other (wild) animals.

Two weeks ago all the 500 public health units of the secretariat were mobilized for the Measles Immunization Campaign, which is scheduled to conclude on 25 May. The public health districts with the highest incidence of measles are those of Curitiba, with 659 cases this year; Guarapuava, with 666 cases; Francisco Beltrao, with 671; and Ponte Grossa, with 514. In 1979 a total of 9,694 persons in Parana suffered from the disease, but the total number of deaths has not yet been computed by the secretariat.

Of the 98 deaths from measles that have occurred so far this year 55 were in Curitiba. According to Dr Jair Paselo, head of the Immunization Campaign, these statistics reflect the increased efficiency of the reporting system of the secretariat. He explained that in the interior regions many deaths are recorded as having been caused by complications resulting from the measles rather than by the measles itself, which is regarded as a "normal phenomenon" in the life of a child.

10792

QSO: 5400

PARANA CITES 12,000 MEASLES CASES IN 4 MONTHS

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 May 80 p 5

[Text] Curitiba--The Parana Health Secretariat estimates that 12,000 children in the state contracted measles during the first 4 months of this year. There were 4,600 cases reported to the secretariat, but statistical projections indicate that only one-third of sick children receive hospital care.

"Measles is considered an insignificant disease, but it often causes illnesses that can lead to death," said Parana Health Secretary Oscar Alves, in repeating yesterday an appeal to parents to bring their children in for vaccination. The secretariat's admittedly incomplete data indicate that 97 children died of complications arising from measles, primarily bronchial pneumonia and gastroenteritis, during the first 4 months of 1980--35 of them in Curitiba alone.

The Health Secretariat began the vaccination campaign against measles 5 May, intending to immunize at least 250,000 children from 7 months to 4 years old who have not yet been vaccinated or have not yet contracted the disease. In the first phase, the campaign is being conducted only in the urban area, where measles spreads more rapidly.

The vaccines will be administered in the 500 permanent stations of the secretariat throughout the state and by mobile teams assembled to cover outlying neighborhoods only until 24 May. After that, health authorities warn, individual shots will not be given in order not to weaken the effect of the second dose of polio vaccine to be given 25 June.

8834

CSO: 5400

BRAZIL

MALARIA STRIKES 150 DAILY IN NORTHERN MATO GROSSO

State of Emergency Declared

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 May 80 p 8

[Text] Porto Velho--Governor Jorge Teixeira de Oliveira has declared a state of emergency in four municipalities and six districts along the Cuiaba-Porto Velho highway which have been stricken by an outbreak of malaria. According to SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns], an average of 150 cases are being recorded in the region daily.

The municipalities most affected are Ariquemes, 280 kilometers from Porto Velho, and Vilhena, on the border of the state of Mato Grosso, where the average number of cases per day is more than 200. Last year there were 45,350 cases of malaria in the territory of Rondonia.

State of Emergency

The state of emergency was declared in Ariquemes, Jiparana, Cocal and Vilhena and in the districts of Jarú, Ouro Preto, Presidente Médici, Rolim de Moura, Colorado d'Oeste and Cerejeira. Under the terms of the decree, the Government of Rondonia can occupy existing buildings and health installations to take care of the malaria victims. Governor Jorge Teixeira has launched a program, War on Malaria, which anticipates spraying 105,000 buildings this year in 173 localities.

Deaths

Health authorities do not know whether there are any fatal cases, but they guarantee that if there are, the number is very small, since malaria rarely kills once it has been diagnosed.

SUCAM's statistics do not mention deaths either. The great problem about malaria is that there is no vaccine against the disease, which is transmitted through the bite of the "anofelino" mosquito of the genus Anopheles.

Mato Grosso Malaria Increasing

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 22 May 80 p 8

[Text] Cuiaba--In recent weeks the number of cases of malaria in the northern region of the state of Mato Grosso has increased considerably, according to a report from the Regional Directorate of SUCAM delivered to Deputy Benedito Alves Ferrax, the government leader in the Legislative Assembly.

The document states that on the Cachimbo Ranch, out of 593 slides examined 268 were positive; in Cidade Sinope 943 out of 3,096 were positive; in Juara 371 out of 1,193 were positive; in Alta Floresta (Region of Aripuana), 15 out of 50 were positive; and in Peixoto de Azevedo (Zone of Garimpo, also in Aripuana) 227 out of 435 were positive.

SUCAM Promises Malaria Eradication

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 23 May 80 p 8

[Text] Brasilia--After presiding over the solemn session commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns [SUCAM], Superintendent Jose Flusa Lima stated that by next year malaria will be eradicated also in the states of Parana and Santa Catarina. The Anopheles mosquito, which transmits malaria, no longer exists in Rio Grande do Sul, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, territory of Fernando Noronha and the Federal District.

Guilherme de Moura Magalhaes, an assistant from the SUCAM Malaria Division, advised that the Ministry of Health will reformulate its strategy for combating malaria "starting with the ecological, epidemiological and anthropological conditions of the states." Thus the campaign will have the following geographical priorities: in the long run the mosquito will be combated in the northern and central-west regions, where 90 percent of the cases occur--the states of Amazonas, Mato Grosso, Acre, Para, Maranhao, Goias and the territories of Rondonia, Roraima and Amapa. In the short term the mosquito will be combated in the states of the northeastern and southeastern regions.

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CSO: 5400

YELLOW FEVER OUTBREAK CONTROLLED; MINISTER'S STATEMENTS

Outbreak Near Sao Luis

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 May 80 p 9

[Text] Sao Luis--An outbreak of sylvan yellow fever, which affected several persons in the city of Montes Altos, in the Tocantina region, is already under control, it was announced by a director of SUCAM (Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns), the agency responsible for combating endemic diseases. The scientist said he arranged for the immediate sanitation of the area by mass vaccination of all residents of that municipality.

SUCAM added that in Montes Altos alone 85.6 percent of the population has been vaccinated. The measure will be expanded throughout the region to avoid spreading this type of yellow fever.

Jose da Costa Almeida, SUCAM coordinator in Sao Luis, said that the sylvan type of yellow fever is uncommon, as the carrier lives in regions where the virus it transmits is not found. Urban yellow fever is already completely eradicated. "The Montes Altos outbreak," according to the SUCAM coordinator, "is the price we pay for our aggressions against nature," referring to the PROALCOOL [National Alcohol Program] which is being established in that area of the Tocantins River.

'Urban Yellow Fever Nonexistent'

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 12 May 80 p 5

[Text] Brasilia--Health Minister Waldyr Arcoverde proposed at the 33rd meeting of the World Health Assembly in Geneva a union of all countries of the Americas to combat and eradicate the Aedes Aegypti mosquito, carrier of urban yellow fever.

Brazil today is reinfested by the mosquito, but the minister asserts that the disease does not exist. There were 11 cases of sylvan yellow fever, carried by the Haemagogus mosquito, reported this year.

PREV-SAÚDE

In his speech, Arcoverde also stressed establishment of the National Program for Basic Health Activities--PREV-SAÚDE.

He also reported that \$2 billion (100 billion cruzeiros) will be needed to set up and operate the program.. It will utilize over 300,000 workers who will operate in about 20,000 health units of all levels (health centers and health stations), covering the 4,000 Brazilian municipalities.

"The essential element of this program's strategy," said Arcoverde, "is to seek simplification without loss of effectiveness and lower cost by increasing the productivity of resources."

He added that "the premise and objective of the program is active and conscious participation by the community."

He also stressed that the Health Ministry's short-term goal is immunization against polio and measles and control of the major Brazilian endemic diseases, such as malaria, schistosomiasis, Chagas' disease and yellow fever.

8834

CSO: 5400

TYPHOID FEVER FOCI REPORTED IN NOVA IGUAÇU

Hospitals at Capacity

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 16 May 80 p 24

[Text] Dr Jorge Lopes de Azevedo Franca, a physician practicing in Nova Iguaçu, yesterday asked the public health authorities to take measures to combat the typhoid fever foci in the municipality. He singled out the districts of Maria Jose, Dom Rodrigo and Luz, which he says are infected with the disease.

"The Sao Sebastiao and Pedro Ernesto hospitals are filled to capacity," he said, "and even my wife and 7-year-old daughter have typhoid fever."

Jorge Lopes further stated that four deaths from the disease had occurred between 19 April and 4 May, and that he had sent eight persons to hospitals in the past few days. He asserted that the typhoid outbreak was caused by the lack of sewers and storm drains and by the accumulation of garbage in the streets.

Broken Water Main

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 21 May 80 p 7

[Text] With respect to the cases of typhoid fever that have been recorded in the Fluminense Lowlands, the state secretary of health insisted that the situation is under control. He announced that although a total of 42 cases had been reported between 7 April and 12 May along Abilio Augusto Tavora Avenue in the Dom Rodrigo district of Nova Iguaçu, the incidence had subsequently been reduced to zero. The cause of the outbreak, he said, was the contamination of a broken water main "which had already been repaired by the CEDAE [State Water and Sewer Company]." To control the outbreak, the secretariat has immunized approximately 200,000 residents of the area.

CANINE RABIES OUTBREAK IN PARANA THUS FAR CONFINED

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 10 May 80 p 16

[Text] Curitiba--With the increase from 21 to 24 cases in this state capital in 3 days, the canine rabies outbreak reported Tuesday by the Parana Health Secretariat has affected 36 dogs throughout the state. That is the report of Natal Jatai Camargo, chief of the secretariat's Epidemic Surveillance Service.

The outbreak, which affected nine dogs in February, showed a slight resumption in March, when six cases were reported, but took a turn for the worse last month, affecting nine dogs in Curitiba. No case of the disease spreading to human beings has been reported, but every day the secretariat's Pasteur Institute is registering and vaccinating owners of dogs suspected of being rabid.

Vaccine

Vaccination of dogs, scheduled for 20 and 23 May, will mean mobilizing 40 soldiers of the 5th Military Region, who will make a house-to-house survey in vehicles of the state and local government throughout the Curitiba metropolitan region, where rabies has assumed outbreak proportions. About 200 persons have been vaccinated through the perifocal system, which consists of immunizing the whole population within a 5-city-block radius of the residence where the canine rabies case is discovered.

Whereas under normal conditions between two and five cases of rabies are reported per month, the Pasteur Institute is now registering more than two cases per day, a secretariat official said yesterday. The main concern of the Epidemic Surveillance Service chief is in regard to the symptomatology of the sick animals, which has different characteristics and leads dog and cat owners whose animals eventually die of rabies to bury them without examination by the veterinarian. Rather than symptoms such as excessive salivation, aggressiveness and aversion to water characteristic of mad rabies, the dogs have also been apathetic, do not always shun water, despite the heavy salivation, and in some cases suffer paralysis of hind- and forelegs.

BRIEFS

MALARIA PREVALENT IN RONDONIA--Porto Velho (By correspondent)--Secretary of Health Ieda Erse has reported that 10 percent of the population of Rondonia were infected by malaria in 1979. She made the disclosure in speaking night before last on the problems of her area to the Territorial Council, an organization similar to the Legislative Assembly but whose members are appointed by the governor. She acknowledged that there were other cases of malaria that had not been officially computed, because, she said, "the necessary controls had not been carried out, due to the constant movements of the migratory groups in the region." In conjunction with SUCAM [Superintendency for Public Health Campaigns], the Secretariat of Health will next Monday begin training personnel to combat malaria more effectively. Moreover, Governor Jorge Teixeira--in a communication sent to SUCAM--has asked that better conditions be provided for the activities of the secretariat in Rondonia, which he said "has the highest incidence of malaria in the world." [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 May 80 p 14] 10992

DECLINE IN INFANT MORTALITY--Sorocaba (By correspondent)--In the course of coping with the highest incidence of infant mortality in the entire state, the Sorocaba Regional Division of Health [DRS] has determined that the region is succeeding in its efforts to reduce the dimensions of the problem: from the 94.37 deaths per thousand recorded for 1978 the index declined to 73.52 as of the first of this year. According to Dr Luis Garcia Duarte, director of the DRS, this demonstrates that "quite positive results have been obtained in various health programs that are being carried out in the region." The work being done ranges from intensification of the regular immunizations against poliomyelitis, measles, whooping cough and diphtheria to medical and nutritional care for pregnant women. In some municipalities of the region, the physician explained, "we were successful in achieving an index of 100 percent for the immunizations. Moreover," he continued, "through the care given to pregnant women we have recently been obtaining--by natural methods--children who are healthier and less likely to contract diseases." [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 80 p 12] 10992

LEPROSY INCIDENCE INCREASES--Nearly 50,000 of Hansen's disease victims are physically incapacitated out of the 156,958 cases already detected by the Ministry of Health in Brazil. The endemic disease is occurring irregularly throughout the entire national territory, with one victim out of every 750 Brazilians. This information is taken from the study sent this week to Health Minister Waldyr Arcoverde by Franz Rulli, the national secretary of special health programs. The study further shows that in Brazil about 66 percent of all cases of Hansen's disease are under control; the ideal percentage is around 75 percent. According to the studies of the Secretariat of Special Programs, there are 84,072 cases of the disease in the Southeast, and 58.48 percent--49,163 cases--are under control. In Brazil 103,459 patients are being treated, either in hospitals or on an outpatient basis. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 May 80 p 10] 12116

CSO: 5400

CALL FOR EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF VECTOR BORNE DISEASES

Rangoon THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY in English 30 May 80 p 5

[Editorial]

[Text]

THE State has been extending health facilities to various parts of the country under the People's Health Plan to provide better health care for the people both in the quantity and quality of medical service.

As part of the programme for promoting people's health, specialists and other health teams are being regularly sent to the countryside.

The visit by a team from the vector-borne diseases control division of the Health Department to villages in Tharrawaddy Township recently to carry out research on carrier mosquitoes with a view to suppressing malaria, dengue haemorrhagic fever and Japanese encephalitis is but one of the many measures taken for improving the people's health.

It is interesting to note that the villages visited by the team—Phashwekyawya, Yaytaik, Shwenyaungbin and Taungsu—suffered from a malaria epidemic in 1977. The team carried out entomological research to determine whether vectors in the area have become immune to pesticides as part of the overall programme for preventing a resurgence of malaria in the villages.

This is a timely action for there has been sporadic reports of malaria outbreak in some parts of the country. Considering the fact that there has been a major resurgence of malaria throughout the world according to a report to the 33rd World Health Organization conference that just ended in Geneva, it is not surprising that malaria has reared its ugly head once again in this part of the world.

As the major factor in malaria's resurgence has been attributed to the increasing resistance of the carrier mosquitoes to pesticides and of the parasite itself to medications, it is vital that research be intensified and everything possible done to keep this disease under control as it causes morbidity and mortality among the working people and thereby hinder socio-economic development.

Like malaria, there are other vector-borne diseases like dengue haemorrhagic fever and Japanese encephalitis which are harmful to the people.

For effective control of such vector-borne diseases, it is essential for the Health workers not only to carry out entomological research and to spray pesticides but also to disseminate health education to a wide section of the population to actively participate in the continuing fight against vector-borne diseases and in other programmes for promoting public health.

MOSQUITO PROLIFERATION, DRUG SHORTAGE INCREASE MALARIA THREAT

Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 9 Jun 80 p 2

[Editorial: "Rains-Mixed Blessings"]

[Text] Whilst the rains have come as a blessing to the two-year agricultural programme, if properly planned, there is a side-effect which also needs to be controlled.

Due to the poor drainage system in many parts of the country, including Accra, the capital itself, the rains have created little ponds which have become hatcheries for mosquito breeding.

As a result, after a hard day's work, one can hardly enjoy an undisturbed sleep, due to the night bouts with mosquitoes which appear to be on a rampage, especially in Accra.

The concern here even goes beyond the disturbance alone. It is the dreadful malaria disease which the mosquitoes do carry that poses a real danger to the society.

There was a time when one could easily lay hands on anti-malaria tablets. But times have changed...and for the worse. For, the anti-malaria drugs are now also bracketed among essential commodities, which are not in abundant supply.

Faced with these problems, the only wise alternative is to step up measures aimed at preventing diseases such as malaria.

Unfortunately, it appears some of the experts are still dragging their feet on propositions for aerial spraying. We are, however, optimistic that since the Limann Administration has promised to continue the good works of Kwame Nkrumah, the method used to fight mosquitoes, especially in the capital, during the First Republic would no longer be buried under unnecessary arguments and technicalities.

Supplement

Meanwhile, the other handy weapon, mosquito coil, which can supplement aerial spraying, has also joined the ranks of missing items.

As expected, manufacturers last year complained of shortage of raw materials.

The story this year, however, appears to be gloomier. For, our information is that the bulk of import licence allocation has been reduced from last year's figure of £500,000 to a mere £60,000. What can this do?

We are not unaware of the constraints on the country's foreign currency. But we submit that matters affecting the health of the people must rank among the first on the priority list.

The 'Times' is not interested in opening any debate on this issue. Our only concern, we once again emphasize, is the threat posed to the health of the people by the ever-growing population of mosquitoes.

Meanwhile, we also wish to remind the Government about the delay in working out plans for the integration of traditional medicine with the orthodox ones.

Our traditional healers need no import licence, for example, to provide drugs to combat malaria.

We venture to warn that if such matters are left solely in the hands of the experts, nothing would be achieved from age to age.

Political decisions must be taken on certain issues to meet the urgency they require.

CSO: 5400

TUBERCULOSIS UPSURGE, STATISTICS REPORTED

Athens AKROPOLIS in Greek 29 May 80 p 2

[Article by I. Metzidakis]

[Text] The 17 Farakla village (Evvoia) pupils who last week showed symptoms of being tuberculosis-prone (adenitis) are not in any danger. All 17 were examined by specialists at the Agia Sofia Hospital and passed all fluoroscopy and blood tests.

The detailed tests have shown that the 17 pupils--16 of whom attended the Farakla elementary and 1 the secondary school--became ill with adenitis but in all cases the X-rays and blood tests did not show any "shadow" [density]. However, since the adenitis symptoms appeared in group fashion the Social Services Ministry authorities took immediate action to pinpoint the contamination source and isolate the disease's agent.

X-Rays for All

This morning a mobile crew of the Social Services Ministry will subject to micro-radiographic [X-ray] examination all residents of the Farakla village which is located 12 kilometers from Mandevdi.

But regardless of the results of these tests the Evvoia case will undoubtedly be a problem for the authorities because it is certain--as the specialists have recently pointed out--that the annual impact and the reactivation of tuberculosis and adenitis in our country are on the rise.

According to official data published in the June 1979 issue of the scientific journal MATERIA MEDICA GREKA (Vol 7, Issue 3, research findings by Professor G. Papaevangelou and Doctors A. Bazas, Th. Bazas and V. Bazas) it follows that:

- a. The impact of lung tuberculosis in Greece resulted annually in 140 new cases per 100,000 people while the tuberculosis reactivation resulted in 276 cases per 100,000 residents.

b. The greatest tuberculosis indices were among the people of Thraki (nomen) (Evros, 344.4 new cases per 100,000 residents; Rodopi, 461.5 per 100,000) and of Makedonia (nomen) (Drama, 235 cases per 100,000; Thessaloniki, 219 per 100,000; Serrai, 253 per 100,000; and Imathia, 239 per 100,000 residents).

The smaller tuberculosis indices were observed among the residents of Crete (nomen): Rethymi, 19.7 new cases per 100,00 residents; Khania, 41.8 per 100,000; Ag. Nikolaos, 71 per 100,000; Irakleion, 117.8 per 100,000 residents. Also, in the Aegean islands: Dodekanisos, 29 per 100,000; Kyklades, 55.6 per 100,000; Lesvos, 104.5 per 100,000; Samos, 124.6 per 100,000; Rhios, 85.3 per 100,000; Evvoia, 9.46 per 100,000; and the city of Athens, 50 new cases per 100,000 residents.

A greater frequency in pulmonary tuberculosis was observed in men over 65 years of age. This fact agrees with international findings but it is not due to the greater susceptibility of older persons. It should rather be attributed to the fact that people of advanced age have been reflected in the past when the disease was more common and is now being reactivated more frequently.

Frequency in Girls

It has been observed that in girls 5 to 14 years old the frequency of tuberculosis is greater than in boys of the same age. However, it is difficult to explain this "fact" scientifically (Kiosoglou: "Tuberculosis Today," pp 38, 164).

The professionals, the executives of enterprises, the senior technical advisers and the senior administrative cadres have shown much smaller [Tuberculosis] reactivation than individuals doing harder work (workers, farmers, foresters, employees, fishermen).

In Greece the average number of new tuberculosis cases reaches 75.9 per 100,000 people, while the mortality from the disease fluctuates around 4.4 per 100,000 people. The countries having the smallest tuberculosis mortality rate per 100,000 people are: Norway and Holland, 0.3; Denmark, 0.6; England and Scotland, 1.5; Luxemburg, 1.7; and Sweden, 2.0. The countries with the highest mortality rate per 100,000 people are: Poland, 12.1; Yugoslavia, 12.0; Portugal, 8.6; Austran, 6.3; Spain, 6.8; Bulgaria, 6.0; Romania, 5.2; and Italy with 4.6 per 100,000 people.

But the most important conclusion of the study by the four Greek doctors is that 99 percent of the persons who were afflicted with tuberculosis were not inoculated nor were they subjected to the Mandou [transliteration] test [skin test].

BRIEFS

INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS--Tuberculosis takes six lakh lives in India every year, Dr B. Sankaran, Director-General of Health Services, said on Saturday, reports UNI. Addressing the annual general meeting of the Tuberculosis Association of India, Dr Sankaran regretted medical education had not given adequate attention to the problem. He said students were not even taught the fundamentals of the disease. He suggested mobilisation of all the resources and public opinion in favour of modern methods to control the spread of the disease. Mr S. Ranganathan, president of the Tuberculosis Association of India, pleaded for conducting a second sample survey to determine the present epidemiological status of TB in India. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Apr 80 p 10]

CHOLERA DEATHS--New Delhi, May 27: Eight person have died in a cholera epidemic in Central India, the United News of India reported Monday. The latest death was of a four-year-old-child Monday in a state-run hospital in Indore, about 700 kilometers south of New Delhi. UNI said 44 persons were hospitalized at Indore Monday with cholera symptoms, in addition to 35 admitted last week.--APA. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 28 May 80 p 3]

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

INFLUENZA EPIDEMIC--As of 24 April, 17 persons died and 80 are seriously ill due to a flu epidemic that has been spreading through Ilaga Subdistrict, Paniai Regency, Irian Jaya, since early this month. There may be more victims since information was received from only four of the 12 villages in the Ilaga Subdistrict. Dr Benny, deputy chief of the Paniai Health Service, told KOMPAS that the Ilaga area is often attacked by this type of flu mainly because the area is located at a very high elevation. At night the temperature drops to 2° Celsius below zero. Because of the people's very low standard of living and lack of knowledge about health care, flu attacks frequently occur, with quite a few victims. Dr S. Wanma, regent of Paniai, who was contacted by KOMPAS, said he would send a team to the Ilaga area immediately via chartered aircraft to offer assistance. The team will be made up of a doctor, two medical assistants, and a health official and will take 30 kilograms of medications into the area. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Apr 80 pp 1, 6] 6804

SMALLPOX MISDIAGNOSED--On Monday [28 April], the Indonesian Department of Health officially denied a report that an Italian engineer developed smallpox on arriving home from Indonesia. The press release signed by Mrs Yoyoh Wartomo, chief of the Legal and Public Information Bureau of the Department of Health, said that after laboratory tests were conducted, it was found that the engineer was not suffering from smallpox (variola) but rather from chicken pox (varicela). Umberto Moretti (age 32) is the engineer who had been in Indonesia on business. According to the Health Department, WHO headquarters in Geneva had informed the WHO program coordinator in Jakarta on 28 April 1980, who thereupon informed the P3H director general that the alleged victim did not have smallpox. The Health Department did not explain whether the chicken pox was contracted in Indonesia. According to Indonesian National Committee records, Indonesia has been free of smallpox for the past 4 years. Three years ago WHO announced that the world was free of smallpox. [Text] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 30 Apr 80 p 12] 6804

BRIEFS

CHOLERA PREVENTION MEASURES--A close check against cholera has been enforced all over Eastern Province. The provincial medical officer of health, Dr. A.O. Oyoo, said this has been done to prevent the disease from spreading. Speaking in Embu, Dr. Oyoo said all district medical officers had been instructed to take blood samples of anyone suspected to be suffering from cholera. He said, however, that no case had so far been detected. The medical chief said his staff had been mobilised at the Loiyangalani and North Horr areas, Marsabit District, to take necessary measures to prevent an outbreak of the disease. Other areas where an alert was in full force include Machakos, Embu, Meru, Isiolo and Kitui districts, Dr. Oyoo said. Appealing to residents of the province to assist his Ministry in its efforts to combat the killer disease, Dr. Oyoo stressed the need for cleanliness. He particularly called upon authorities of institutions such as schools and proprietors of restaurants and hotels to keep their premises clean. Dr. Oyoo said his personnel, jointly with police, had embarked on surprise visits to trading centres all over the province to ensure that health regulations were strictly adhered to. Those found not to be complying with health rules, he warned, would be prosecuted and have their premises closed. KNA [Text] (Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 10 Jun 80 p 10)

CSO: 3400

BRIEFS

DEATH FROM RABIES--Mwanza, Monday--Negligence to receive medical treatment after being bitten by a rabid dog has resulted into the death of Mr. Lucia Bonongwe from Kalima Village in Chief Nthache here. Mr. Bonongwe, 21, was bitten by a rabid dog on March 10, 1980 at his home and did not go to the hospital to report and receive treatment until the wounds were cured. Seven days later, Mr. Bonongwe felt severe brain attack which led him to insanity. He was taken to Thambani Health Unit where he was further sent to Mwanza District Hospital for diagnosis. The hospital officials discovered that the patient had been bitten by a rabid dog 7 days before and that he did not receive anti-rabies treatment. The late Mr. Bonongwe died in Mwanza District Hospital on May 19. An official from the veterinary office here has advised all people who touched the body of the deceased to receive anti-rabies vaccine to prevent further spread of the disease. The official warned dog owners to ensure that their dogs were vaccinated against rabies. He also called for the attention of everyone in the district to report to the veterinary office or hospital immediately they were bitten by a dog. "The effects of rabies could come out even after 80 to 100 days later," the official warned.--MANA [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 27 May 80 p 6]

MEASLES, POLIO VACCINATIONS ADVISED--Mangochi, Tuesday--All children must be immunized against polio and measles to ensure a healthy nation, the Minister of Health, Mr. I. Chasiya Phiri, said yesterday after visiting Mangochi District Hospital and Monkey Bay Dispensary. The Minister appealed to people to bring their children to hospitals for immunization against polio and measles. He also appealed to them to timely go to hospitals when they felt sick, instead of seeking treatment when their illness had reached an advanced state.--MANA [Excerpts] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 28 May 80 p 4]

RESPONSE FROM ANTIPOLIO CAMPAIGN--Thyolo, Wednesday--The National Anti-polio Immunisation Campaign here is receiving very good and encouraging response from people, a health official from Thyolo Government Hospital said yesterday. The campaign which was launched in mid-April by the Ministry of Health at Ngabu in Chikwawa, started in Thyolo at the end of April and the ten man team of vaccinators have covered areas of T.A. Chimaliro and Thomas and

parts of Chiefs Nchilawela and Bvumbwe. The health official who is also overseeing the exercise said that large numbers of mothers were turning up with eligible children to receive anti-polio injection at assembly points. In Chief Chimaliro's area, of the 4,827 children qualifying for immunisation, 4,570 have already been vaccinated, representing 94 percent, compared with 80 percent of the official target of the campaign to cover within each area, he pointed out. The vaccinators are deployed in five groups of two each and cover ten assembly centres each day.--MANA [Text] [Blantyre DAILY TIMES in English 29 May 80 p 1]

CSO: 5400

NEW ZEALAND

BRIEFS

TYPHOID OUTBREAK--Auckland, Wednesday.--Six cases of typhoid fever have been notified here in the biggest outbreak for some years. City health authorities say one person apparently contracted the disease in Fiji and infected other family members. (AAP) [Text] [Sydney THE SYDNEY MORNING HERALD in English 8 May 80 p 12]

CSO: 5400

PAKISTAN

THIRTY PERCENT OF AFGHAN DP'S SUFFERING FROM TB

Karachi DAWN in English 11 Jun 80 p 10

[Text] Islamabad, June 10--About 30 percent of the registered Afghan refugees in Pakistan are suffering from tuberculosis or malnutrition, according to a recent survey.

The number of registered refugees as on May 15 was 7,66,925. Of them 6,14,848 were in NWFP and 1,52,077 in Baluchistan. Besides them, 5,590 have been registered in Sind, 22,157 in Punjab and 1,287 in Azad Kashmir. Another 75,700--mainly livestock holders--are estimated to have entered Pakistan without registering themselves with the local authorities. These figures have been worked out in co-operation with the Government of Pakistan by the UNHCR establishment, which has now set up an office in Islamabad and sub-offices in Peshawar and Quetta--manned by 15 international staff members.

The Pakistan Government is working out at a new recording system which will provide a basis for a far more comprehensive understanding of the movements of the Afghan refugees population. Under the new arrangements a complete record of births and deaths will also be maintained.

Now the policy of the Pakistan Government is to encourage refugees living on the border with Afghanistan to move further inland. UNHCR has expressed readiness to provide funds for their transfer.

The Pakistan Government in co-operation with international agencies have drawn up plans for providing the Afghan refugees with education and health facilities and to set up projects for production with traditional Afghani handicrafts to provide refugees with means of livelihood.

It has already started taking steps to treat TB patients and launch a mass immunisation programme. Arrangements are also being made to provide high protein crackers and re-constituted milk to children, pregnant women and lactating mothers.

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CHOLERA STILL RAMPANT--At least four to five cases of cholera were still being reported every day with no arrangements at hospitals at night. The Mayor of City Arbab Mohd Niaz had ordered preventive measures and immunisation but no concrete steps were taken to control the epidemic and Rs. 2 is still being taken from the school students for every injection. According to the relatives of the patients there were no treatment of epidemic at the Lady Reading Hospital at night and the victims have to wait till morning because of the non-availability of doctors. Moreover Rs. 5 have been charged from every patient for injection at LRH. The citizens have appealed to the Mayor and the Health authorities for prompt remedial steps. [Text] [Peshawar KHYBER MAIL in English 21 May 80 p 1]

HEMORRHAGE FEVER--A Medico-Legal Officer of the Civil Hospital was stunned to find a virus haemorrhage fever case right in front of him during the post-mortem examination of the body of a Railway Clerk, Saghir Ahmed, brought to the hospital yesterday afternoon. The haemorrhage of brain, heart, kidney, lungs, eyes, liver, spleen and almost all parts of the body was confirmed by Dr Mohammad Rafiq, the Medico-Legal Officers, during autopsy. The intestines were broken into pieces and bleeding under the skin was also witnessed during the post-mortem examination. Saghir Ahmed, 25, collapsed and died on the spot at the Reservation Counter of the Awami Express at the Karachi City Railway Station. He had gone to the office to collect his salary. The case of the deceased was referred to the Civil Hospital by the Railway Police for post-mortem examination. It may be recalled that a similar case had occurred a few years ago when Surgeon Matin and other members of his team had died three days after conducting a similar operation to ascertain the real cause of Virus Haemorrhage Fever of a patient--a shepherd of Rawalpindi hill tracts. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 6 Jun 80 p 7]

STEPS TO CHECK CHOLERA--Sialkot, May 26: Preventive measures are being taken to overcome the cholera epidemic gripping the town. A number of teams to give injections in all educational institutions and from door to door have been formed by the M. C. The M. C. has also set up a body to deal with complaints regarding short water supply. The body will also receive complaints over the phone (at No. 2577). [Text] [Lahore THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 27 May 80 p 5]

CAUSE OF FOOD POISONING IN TORORO REPORTED UNKNOWN

Kampala UGANDA TIMES in English 15 May 80 p 1

[Text]

THE district medical officer, Tororo, Dr Ntwatwa has expressed great disappointment over lack of co-operation from Tororo Town Council authorities and the medical department in efforts to maintain health standards in the town.

In a circular to Tororo district authorities, the medical officer said success in controlling and preventing food poisoning and diarrhoea which "are now very common in Tororo, can only be achieved through concerted efforts of all the people, particularly local authorities in the district."

Ntwatwa urged Tororo town authorities to mobilise the public to attend health education talks on communicable diseases organised by the medical department. So far more than 30 people have been admitted to Tororo hospital after eating poisoned food.

Ntwatwa said that although his department

had banned the sale of locally prepared wheat products in Tororo, the town council authorities had failed to implement the ban and as a result seven more people have been admitted with mental confusion, after eating locally made wheat-flour products.

The medical officer disclosed that diarrhoea and vomiting was on the increase in and around Tororo town.

He again advised the residents of the town to boil their drinking water. He has also banned all food hawkers in Tororo town and prohibited the sale of salads and locally made wheat products in Tororo District.

Meanwhile the task force from the ministry of health headquarters is being awaited to investigate the current wave of diarrhoea and vomiting in and around Tororo town.

The medical officer has also warned the public against unnecessary movements between Tororo and Mbale where there is already an outbreak of cholera.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH OUTBREAK WORSENS IN RIO GRANDE DO SUL

Cattle Sales Suspended

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 May 80 p 24

[Text] Porto Alegre--After several days of denials the Secretariat of Agriculture of Rio Grande do Sul admitted the seriousness of the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease which has affected the state. Secretary Balthazar de Bem e Canto announced for Monday a meeting at which sales of cattle could be totally suspended throughout the state. The government continues to conceal the numbers affected by the outbreak with the allegation that it is very difficult to make such a survey, but ranchers in the Municipality of Jaguarao (405 kilometers from Porto Alegre), the most seriously affected, have informed us that already more than 3,000 animals have died and that 30,000 more have been infected by the disease.

According to a survey made by the Foot-and-Mouth Disease Service, the disease has spread through more than 30 of the chief cattle-raising municipalities. They include more than 8.5 million head. The Rio Grande do Sul herd totals 12 million head. The most serious outbreak at this moment is in the municipalities of the Southern Zone and on the border with Uruguay and Argentina--Santa Vitoria do Palmar, Jaguarao, Herval, Piratini, Pelotas, Bage, Livramento, Uruguaiana, Quaraí, Dom Pedrito and Alegrete, among others--but the disease is affecting a broad region "below the Jacui River," which represents almost half the state. Furthermore, there is foot-and-mouth disease in municipalities on the northern shore and in the Taquari valley, where it was spread by sheep acquired for a festival barbeque. In the Taquari valley, the disease has spread through the dairy cattle and swine herds.

Sales Suspended

In Livramento no animal deaths have yet been recorded, but there are foci of infection according to information received from leaders of the Rural Union. The problem is causing so much concern that a yearling market which was set for 14 May was rescheduled for June, on a date yet to be indicated by the Secretariat of Agriculture. Cattle auctions in general

were also suspended because the movement of the animals on foot along the roads is the most serious vehicle for transmitting the foot-and-mouth virus.

For that reason, agriculture Secretary Balthazar de Bem e Canto has been in Jaguarao talking with ranchers. On Monday he will meet with technicians and representatives of the cattle raisers to study the possibility of suspending all cattle sales in Rio Grande do Sul until the outbreak has been controlled by additional vaccination--which has already begun--and the utilization of monovalent vaccine (made for a determined virus and for that reason stronger) on the animals that have not been infected but which are close to foci of the disease. The most-used vaccines are trivalent (for three viruses) and their power for immunization is less.

Outbreak May Become Epidemic

Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 28 May 80 p 23

[Text] Porto Alegre--The "foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Rio Grande do Sul is becoming an epidemic and beginning to threaten the cattle economy," Ubiratan Mendes, the national secretary of protection to ranchers and farms of the Ministry of Agriculture, declared yesterday. He is collecting data on the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the southern part of the state.

"The laboratory examinations will be investigated," he declared "to identify the active viruses and to obtain information for an all-out effort against foot-and-mouth disease in Rio Grande do Sul."

The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease is principally affecting the cattle herds of Jaguarao, Santa Vitoria do Palmar, Arroio Grande, Herval and Don Pedrito.

Santa Catarina

Florianopolis--Helio Andreazza, the Santa Catarina secretary of agriculture, yesterday handed down a government directive prohibiting the transportation of cattle, swine, goats and sheep across the territory of Santa Catarina if they originate in Rio Grande do Sul, in order to protect the herds of Santa Catarina from the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease that has occurred in the neighboring state.

Helio Andreazza also announced that beginning next week vaccination against foot-and-mouth disease will be intensified throughout Santa Catarina state.

Foot-and-Mouth Serum

Presidente Prudente--the secretary of agriculture of Sao Paulo, Guilherme Afif Domingos, denied yesterday in Presidente Prudente that foot-and-mouth vaccine is being taken away from Sao Paulo to be sent to the southern part of the country. He declared that the executive group for combating foot-and-mouth disease in the state of Sao Paulo has acted in time, although he

recognizes that supplies are insufficient to take care of the forthcoming periodic vaccination campaign, which is scheduled for June. To make up this shortage the Biological Institute of Sao Paulo will start to produce vaccines again to guarantee their high quality, the secretary emphasized.

"We do not have sufficient vaccines. Our line of conduct is precisely to reinforce the infrastructure so that we can produce more vaccines and create a more efficient regional program. In that context, we want the Biological Institute to produce again and to set a standard for the existing vaccines," he added.

Northern Region Cordoned Off

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 May 80 p 8

[Text] Porto Alegre--The formation of a disease-free belt isolating the northern area of the state and utilizing a specific monovalent vaccine were the principal measures announced by the national secretary of protection to farms and ranches of the Ministry of Agriculture, Ubiratan Mendes Serrao, to combat the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Rio Grande do Sul.

Recognizing that 30 percent of the vaccines produced this year did not meet the required standard of efficacy, Ubiratan Serrao declared that "until our vaccines reach the desired quality, it is logical that production will decline."

Vaccines To Be Available

As he announced the measures that will be adopted to combat the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the state, the secretary declared that he believed that within 30 to 40 days their effects can be appraised.

Livestock fairs and the transport of cattle within the state are prohibited. As for the effectiveness of the current trivalent vaccines the secretary emphasized that they need to be supported by measures "like the ones that we are taking now."

Emphasizing that the thrust of the government is to furnish an "extremely effective" vaccine, Ubiratan Serrao recognized that in the most recent vaccination, from October to December, Rio Grande do Sul received only 80 percent of the vaccines that it needed, because not enough effective vaccines were produced.

Vaccination Stations on Border

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 30 May 80 p 8

[Text] Effective today 19 anti-foot-and-mouth disease posts will begin functioning on the Santa Catarina--Rio Grande do Sul border, principally

in the southern, plateau and western regions. These posts are beginning the first stage of the statewide campaign, which begins next week, with a total of 10,000 doses of vaccine available.

Livestock breeders are alarmed by the epidemic of foot-and-mouth disease recorded in Rio Grande do Sul, but the livestock supervisor of the Secretariat of Agriculture has declared that the situation is not worrisome in Santa Catarina, where only two foci of the disease have been detected: in the municipalities of Imarui and Anitapolis in the southern part of the state.

The Santa Catarina bovine herd amounts to approximately 2.3 million head and the intention of the Secretariat is to vaccinate from 80 to 90 percent of it. At the beginning of the week Secretary Helio Andreazza handed down a government decree prohibiting the importing of cattle from Rio Grande do Sul.

12116

CSO: 5400

BRIEFS

CATTLE, PACE ANIMAL VACCINATIONS--Mettu--The animal health office of Illu-babor region has given vaccinations and medical treatment to a total of 696,733 heads of cattle and pack animals last year. Out of the total, 444,700 heads of cattle received vaccinations against rinderpest and bovine pleuro-pneumonia and 57,928 against anthrax. A total of 142,534 heads of cattle and animals received vaccinations against other diseases, and 22,442 treatments of various categories. In addition, external surgical operations were conducted on 8,353 animals while 22,776 underwent internal surgical operations. [Text] [Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 5 Jun 80 p 6]

CBO: 5400

DLCO-EA HEAD URGES PROMPT CONTROL OF LOCUSTS

Addis Ababa THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD in English 7 Jun 80 pp 1, 5

[Text]

ADDIS ABABA (EH) — The desert locust upsurge monitored in 1977 had been effectively suppressed by March 1979 and that strict surveillance has been maintained on all the potential breeding grounds by continuous aerial and ground surveys.

This remark was made by Mr. D.M. Wako, Director General of the Desert Locust Control Organisation for Eastern Africa (DLCO-EA) at a special function held at the headquarters of the organisation based here yesterday. Mr. Wako, who was speaking in acknowledgment of a donation made to the DLCO by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, said that any locust populations during the recession are a potential danger, should they find favourable climatic and ecological conditions. He noted that for that matter they should be detected and promptly controlled.

At yesterday's function, the Ambassador of the FRG, Mr. Rüdiger Von Pachtbel, handed over to the Director General of DLCO a donation of DM 177,000, as the first contribution towards the organisation's newly formed Reserve Fund. The reserve fund

was introduced to ensure the availability of sufficient funds and equipment for emergency purposes to combat any locust threat. The target of the reserve fund is set at US \$ 1,000,000.

In handing over the donation, Ambassador Von Pachtbel spoke appreciably of the significant work carried out by the DLCO and said the gift extended by his government is a kind tribute to this important achievement. He praised the dedicated services rendered by the DLCO in fighting against desert locust and the tar tar fly. He described the donation made by the FRG as a modest contribution in recognition of the tremendous tasks performed by the organisation.

As further disclosed by Mr. Wako, the DLCO-EA was established by an international convention in 1962 signed by the governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. Its main objectives are to promote the most effective control of the desert locust in Eastern Africa and to offer its services in co-

ordination of and reinforcement of national action against desert locust in the region.

The DLCO Director General pointed out that the organization, in addition to desert locust control, has entered into other areas involving control of migratory and other common pests like *Quelaa quelaa* birds, army worm and tea tree flies. He regarded this as a very important development that has diversified the scope of the organization's responsibilities and a great contribution to the security of food supply in Eastern Africa.

the DLCO. He thanked the Director General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) for channeling assistance in the form of equipment and insecticides from working capital fund of the FAO and multi-lateral funds pledged by the UNDP, EEC, BADEA, Germany FFCH, Belgium, Canada, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Small Arable. He said that this multi-lateral assistance was used for the purchase of aircraft, heavy duty trucks, light vehi-

cles, insecticides and radio communications system.

The function at the DLCO also included a brief interview with newsmen with the Director General and his close aides. The harmful nature of the desert locust was expressed in a written item issued by the organization. The item reads like this: "A swarm consists of a leaderless pack of locusts flying at a speed of up to 12 miles per hour. The density of the pack is between 40 million and 80 million insects per 0.4 square mile. The largest swarm ever accurately measured covered almost 400 square miles and probably included 40 billion locusts. Since locusts daily eat the equivalent of their own weight, about 0.07 ounces during their period of greatest activity, this swarm would eat 80,000 tons of food each day. This amount of corn could feed 400,000 people for a year".

Present on the occasion were Comrade Dr. Geremew Dabala, Minister of Agriculture, representatives of the seven governments making up the organization, invited guests and officials and employees of the DLCO-EA.

FUNGUS DISEASE THREATENS BEAN CROP IN SOROCABA

Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 May 80 p 19

[Text] Sorocaba--A disease caused by fungi and known as "angular spot" is affecting the end of the bean harvest in the Sorocaba region, the principal producer in the state, and may cause a drop of up to 30 percent in total production, according to reports from the local Regional Agricultural Division.

However, "angular spot" is only one more misfortune that the producers are facing: it accompanies an increase of almost 400 percent in the prices of supplies they must buy, a shrinking of credit and climatic problems which have delayed the planting of the beans, as Rubens Ribas, the president of the Rural Union of Itapeva declared. "Because of all that, many people have stopped planting," he added.

The Sorocaba region produces 75 percent of all the beans produced in the state. For this crop 145,000 hectares were planted, 15,000 more than in the previous year, known as "the harvest of waters." It was hoped that 2 million bags would be harvested, but "angular spot" put an end to optimism. "Caused by fungi, as a result of climatic problems, that disease has always appeared, but it has never caused so much damage as now," Joao Alessi declared. He is a technician in the Regional Agricultural Division of Sorocaba. At the same time, fortunately the disease began to appear almost at the end of the harvest, chiefly affecting the late plantings. "Nearly 70 percent of the beans that were planted have already been harvested," the technician explained, emphasizing that the delay in production was caused in part by the climatic problems that prevailed at the time of planting.

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ONION DISEASE IN SAO PAULO NOT TO AFFECT SUPPLY

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 3 May 80 p 7

[Text] Agriculture Ministry experts yesterday labeled as a maneuver by speculators the reports that the supply of onions will be threatened this year due to the outbreak of disease in the Piedade region of Sao Paulo.

According to the experts, the occurrence of the "mal-de-sete-voltas" [literally, disease that recurs seven times] in the onions of Piedade will not affect the national supply because demand will be easily supplied by other Sao Paulo regions and by the production of the Sao Francisco Valley and Rio Grande do Sul.

After July, they added, supply will be greater than demand in view of the harvest peak in northern Sao Paulo and the Sao Francisco Valley. Hence, according to the experts, there are no grounds for the report that supply is threatened: "The middlemen, in fact, want to raise onion prices."

They think it is most probable that there will be a surplus of about 170,000 tons of onions, which will have to be used industrially and partly left in the field to ripen and form seeds for use in later plantings.

According to the specialists, the domestic supply of onions is assured as a result of the National Onion Plan, under the guidance of the National Production Secretariat of the Agriculture Ministry. The plan establishes production scheduling according to the various regions of the country in such a way as to avoid excessive concurrent harvesting, which is the cause of excess and lost production at certain times of the year and scarcity at other times.

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BRIEFS

CATERPILLARS INFECT PARANA WHEAT--A heavy attack of caterpillars and irregular germination of seeds are the principal problems reported in the wheat crop this year in the Londrina region, which will have a 20-percent reduction in the area planted compared to last year, when 87,000 hectares were planted. Agime Kato, technician of the Regional Center of the Agriculture Secretariat, asserted in Londrina that seeds planted in April are germinating irregularly, due especially to irregular rainfall. He added that in the wheat fields which are germinating, mainly in the Alvorada do Sul and Sertanopolis regions, "there is a heavy attack of cutworm caterpillars, which eat the stem of the plant." [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 7 May 80 p 28] 8834

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